

## Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, April 2, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, April 2, 1837.

*My dear sir*, I have been at home since the evening of the 25th ultimo, as you will have been advised by the Nashville papers. My health is improving, but it is slowly, some days my cough is quite light and I think I am about to get well, but the next I am feeble and oppressed with it—the weather has been very variable lately, and we have all colds taken on board the Steam Boats. I live in hopes of regaining my strength so that I can amuse myself in riding over my farm and visitting my good neighbours, who, all but one, new born Whigg, formerly my friend, has cheered and welcomed my return—he like many other Whiggs I suppose are ashamed of their course and dislike to meet me.

The papers will have given you a full account of the various and numerous cheerings I met with on my returning journey—it is therefore unnecessary for me to enumerate them. Our dear little petts have been quite unwell since our return home with colds, crupe, and bowel complaints—the rest of my houshold well, and all desire, and unite with me in kind salu[ta]tions to you, Mrs. Blair and *all* your amiable family—we shall expect you and Mrs. Blair and Elisa at the Hermitage with us this summer. do write us how you all are and how gets on the *whole Globe*.

I have now to ask your attention to one subject—it is this. I have just seen part of judge Whites testimony taken before Mr Wise' committee. I wish to draw your attention to that part of it which relates to judge Herring and myself. now I believe you, major Lewis, Mr.

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Harris, now at the head of the Indian Bureau, as well as all the heads of the Departments do know, that judge Herring<sup>1</sup> was appointed at the special instance and request of Governor Cass, and kept there by him, altho often told by me of his incompetancy until a paymasters office was given him. the fact is, that I had made out a nomination for Col Wilson to fill the Indian Burea[u], sent it to the senate by major Donelson, Govr. Cass met him at the senate and prevailed upon him to bring it back, and Governor Cass prevailed upon me to withhold it, and send up judge Herring, the Governor urging “that he was so good a man etc.” as to judge Herrings politics, I never was advised. Govr. Cass was his greatest favorite, and as far as ever was intimated to me, he was with our friend Swarwout in politics, that is to say, in favor of judge White in preference to Mr Van Buren.

1 Judge Elbert Herring, commissioner of Indian affairs from 1832 to July, 1836; succeeded by Carey A. Harris.

As I mean, at a proper period, and as soon as prepared, to review the judges testimony, I wish you to furnish me with your own knowledge of the fact of judge Herring being appointed at the particular request of Governor Cass, and at his anxious solicitude alone, and have subjoined to it Mr Woodburys, Mr. Butlers, and Mr. Kendels with Mr. Harris and Major Lewis, and as to his being a White man instead of being in favour of Mr. Van Buren. I would write to Mr. Harris and Major Lewis and the Heads of the Departments, but it wearies me to write much, and I think your application to them on my request will be better, and produce from all of them the mere statement of the fact of his being appointed by the solici[tat]ions of Cass and kept there by him, notwithstanding all judge Herrings blunders, so often brought to Governor Cass notice by me—this was often named by me in the presence of my Cabinet. The judge having commenced his deposition in this Error, and falshood, he has carried it throout his whole deposition, and this being so palpable, I wish the statement of the Gentlemen referred to to commence my review upon and for reasons not necessary to assign here I want both Mr. Harris's and major Lewis— *they*

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*belong to the War Department.* My dear sir, *attend to this for me* as early as possible, and send it to me by mail, or some safe hand coming direct to Nashville.

Again present me to your dear wife and family and to all friends, yours sincerely

P.S. You will see from the Neworleans papers, that the overtrading, speculations, and over issues of paper, are producing what every reflecting prudent man knew, bankruptcy and distress to all concerned in it. Say to the President and secretary of the Treasury *take care of the Deposit Banks*—the great rail road Bank bubble of Mississippi, has busted by its first steam, and nothing has prevented the others but the Treasury order checking these wild speculations. if paper was to be permitted again to buy the public Lands, before the extent of the present evils of over issues, gambling, and speculation is seen, we cannot tell where the mischief may end. 100, million of more paper could not meet the amount of liabilities now existing in alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, arkansa, Illanois, Indiana, Ohio, and michigan, and three months more of paper for Land, would add another 100, millions to the present liabilities. the Bank paper is now from 5 to 10 prcent below par. I say again to take care of the currency or the administration will be shook to its center. The treasury order is popular with all but the speculators, and gamblers—nothing was ever more so, but senators and members of congress are deeply engaged in it, and their connections—these here only are solicitous for its suspension. if suspended now mark the consequences, the people are not complaining or memorialising but the senators and members of congress are, who are involved, and their connections deeply involved in speculation and debt as they are, and if they can make mony they care not a fig how the administration gets on, whether destroyed or not.